

IN THE CLAIMS

- 1.- (currently amended) A method for integrally applying a relief decoration (39) to a portion of the surface of solid extruded elongate members (7) of predetermined profile, comprising the steps of
 - a) pre-heating at least a portion of a first surface (41, 45) of an elongate member (7) by means of a pre-heater (43) having first heating means,
 - b) applying a relief decoration (39) to a surface of the elongate member (7) by pressing in a heated mould (57) having second heating means separate from the first heating means,
 - c) measuring a structural defect of the elongate member (7) with applied relief decoration (39), thus generating deformity measurement signal, and
 - d) controlling the pre-heating in response to the measurement signal so as to eliminate or diminish the structural defect in subsequent elongate members to which a relief decoration is applied.
- 2.- (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the defect is a camber.
- 3.- (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the defect is a surface defect in the relief decoration.
- 4.- (original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the defect is an incomplete or deformed relief.
- 5.- (original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the surface deformity is crazing.
- 6.- (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the preheating step is by infra-red radiation or by convection heating.
- 7.- (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the pre-heating step includes pre-heating a second surface of the elongate member.
- 8.- (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the controlling step includes selectively controlling the heat energy applied to the first and/or second surface.
- 9.- (withdrawn) An installation (1) for integrally applying a relief decoration (39) to a portion of the surface of solid extruded elongate members (7) of predetermined profile, comprising

- a) a first pre-heater (43) comprising a first bank of heaters (47, 49) for selectively pre-heating at least a portion of first surface of an extruded elongate member (7);
- b) a press (51) comprising at least one mould cavity (59) and/or mould plug (61) for applying the desired relief decoration (39) to a surface of the elongate member (7),
- c) a measurement system (67) for measuring a structural defect of the ornamented elongate member and for generating a defect measurement signal,
- d) pre-heater control means (69) for controlling the heating of the pre-heater (43) in response to the defect measurement signal.

10.- (withdrawn) Installation according to claim 9, further comprising a second bank of second pre-heaters for selectively pre-heating at least a portion of a second surface of the elongate member.

11.- (withdrawn) Installation (1) according to claim 9, wherein the pre-heater is a radiation heater.

12.- (withdrawn) Installation (1) according to claim 9, wherein the pre-heater is a convection heater.

13.- (withdrawn) Installation (1) according to claim 9, characterised in that the press (51) is a hot stamp press with a lower platen (53) and an upper platen (55) provided with a mould (57).

14.- (withdrawn) Installation according to claim 9, further comprising a calliper for holding the ornamented elongate member after it is taken from the press in a predefined shape until cool.

15.- (withdrawn) Installation according to claim 9, wherein the measurement system comprises means for measuring a camber.

16.- (withdrawn) Installation according to claim 9, wherein the measurement system comprises means for measuring a surface defect in the relief decoration.

17.- (withdrawn) Installation according to claim 16, wherein the measurement system comprises means for measuring an incomplete or deformed relief.

18.- (withdrawn) Installation according to claim 16, wherein the measurement system comprises means for measuring surface crazing.